# THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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## Dark Prospect

This, the experts agree, is a time of international crisis. The London conference has ended in failure; Russian-American relations have, in diplomatic parlance, deteriorated dangerously; the occupation is going badly in both Germany and Japan; no solution is in sight for the problem of financial aid to Britain.

A few weeks ago there were optimists who were willing to accept the mutual distrust prevailing among the former allies as a temporary thing, a natural aftermath of the war. They are few today. Elsewhere on this page Dorothy Thompson writes emotionally of "the lost peace", seeing nothing ahead but international anarchy and another war.

The isolationists are resurgent, seizing upon current difficulties with Russia to bolster their worn argument that Uncle Sap has no business abroad in the world. We can survive, they cry, only by ringing our continent with naval bases, maintaining a huge military establishment, guarding the dubious secret of the atomic bomb, avoiding international commitments, except, perhaps, the establishment of a claim on Canada's uranium deposits.

The United Nations charter is only a memory in Washington now; the San Francisco Conference seems as remote as the San Francisco fire. We are dressing up our international arguments with idealism, as usual, but we don't seem to be fooling anybody, not even ourselves. Secretary Byrnes' high-sounding argument on behalf of expanding the Big Three by admitting China and France on an equal footing is empty, following, as it does, his tacit admission that he is seeking additional support in his stand against Russia.

There are still a few eloquent voices protesting our progress toward a peace settlement based on power politics. They belong, in the main, to writers and philosphers, men and women who are written off by their opponents as idealists, but who insist that their approach is the only practical one. They argue that the price of peace is sovereignty, that the nations of the earth can escape destruction only by banding together into a federal union, as the American colonies did, relegating control of international affairs to a powerful international government.

And it is only these believers in Federal Union who see anything bright in the international prospect. This is fine weather for testing their idea, they think, for the continued failure of the nations to come together along traditional lines leaves open the opportunity for implementing a new theory. The United Nations Organization, when it finally gathers, will have no real power, but, then, neither did the Continental Congress. Federation of the American colonies grew out of desperation, and so may a federal union of the bickering nations.

## Pre-Atomic Lesson

The lines are now drawn for one of the sharpest intra-mural battles Washington has seen in a long time — the fight over consolidation of the army and navy under a single Department of Defense. The army's for it, the navy's against it, and the civilians in the War and Navy Department and in the military and naval committees of Congress are backing their respective services.

As usual, nobody seems to be quite sure exactly where the President stands on the issue. As a Senator, when such abstract controversies were not likely to develop into campaign issues, Mr. Truman favored consolidation. Now he still seems to; in his recent message he informed Congress that he would submit during the present session "a comprehensive and continuing program of national security, including . . . unification of the armed services." This, however, is a little vague, and leaves the way open for the sort of weaseling that is becoming known around Washington as the Missouri Compromise.

Consolidation was attempted after the last war, when President Harding was in the White House, but ran into overwhelming opposition from both army and navy. Herbert Hoover, interested then, as now in economy, figured he could save something like $100,000,000 in 1932 by merging the two services, but was turned down by the House.

The issue now is not one of economy, or even, primarily, of administrative efficiency; national salvation may well be at stake. This is the jet-propelled, radar-controlled Atomic Age, remember, and we are not likely to be able to afford the sort of hanky-panky that cost us our fleet at Pearl Harbor. The navy can point to its great tradition and call on the ghost of John Paul Jones, but it can't get around the history of World War II in which land and sea warfare became an integrated whole. General Eisenhower commanded naval task forces. Admiral Nimitz commanded armies, and the color of their uniforms didn't seem to make much difference.

The atom, of course, may make the whole argument academic, but in the meantime it would be well to make use of the hard, expensive lessons we learned in the Pre-Atomic Age.

## Optimistic Hero

Another North Carolinian has journeyed to Washington to receive from President Truman the Congressional Medal of Honor. He is Jacklyn Lucas of Bellhaven, a 17-year-old Marine private who survived after throwing himself over a Japanese hand grenade to save the comrades who shared his Iwo Jima foxhole.

Understandably, Lucas is bubbling over with self-confidence. There is none of the usual false modesty in his personal account of his action. It was, he informed the press, a hell of a thing.

> I shot one Jap through the head. My rifle jammed. Grenades were flying everywhere. A lot of 'em laying around me didn't go off.
>
> Right after my rifle jammed I was squatting down trying to get it unjammed. A couple of grenades rolled into the trench. I hollered to my pals to get out and did a superman dive at the grenades. I wasn't a superman after I got hit.
>
> I let out one helluva scream when that thing went off. I had to pull the grenade out from under me with my left hand. I was thinking about nothing but "Luke, you're going to die."

At 17, wearing his country's highest decoration, Jacklyn Lucas is a complete optimist. He wasn't really kidding when he told reporters: "Soon as I rest up, I imagine I'll run for President."

We're delighted with Jacklyn Lucas. It's good to realize that there is nothing ridiculous about his plan to run for President, that this still seems a land of unlimited opportunity to a part-Indian lad from Bellhaven. We only wish that, somehow, we could guarantee him against ever having to cover another hand grenade.

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The strange silence of Henry Wallace by no means deters his critics among the commentators, one of whom lately misquoted it.

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Among current specimens of dead-pan humor is the British trade explanation of a boost in the cost of pillows: Down is up.

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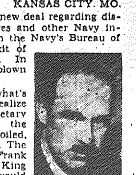
Our new course in personality development begins: "Do you lack confidence in your own powers? . . . You, too, are composed of mighty atoms."

# The Merry-Go-Round

**By Drew Pearson**

KANSAS CITY, MO.

NAVY insiders are hoping for a new deal regarding discharges, recognition of reserves and other Navy injustices, following the shake-up in the Navy's Bureau of Personnel and the impending exit of Navy czar Admiral Ernie King. In fact, some fresh air already has blown into the Navy Department.



To get the full picture of what's happening, it's necessary to realize that for about five years the Secretary of the Navy has chiefly been the performing puppet of hard-boiled, high-handed Admiral Ernie King. The late Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox was at sword's points with King most of the time. The admirals would meet in formal session with him, show him a few routine cables and then adjourn.

Later, King and his close associates would handle the really important cables, which neither Knox nor Undersecretary James Forrestal knew existed.

Admiral King pulled his own Annapolis classmates all around him. He formed the most powerful clique the Navy has ever seen, with no one able to penetrate it, least of all the Secretary of the Navy. The older men of King's time at Annapolis (he is 65) got the chief plums, and the young men bore the brunt of the fighting. Antagonism against King was especially bitter among Annapolis men between the classes of 1917 to 1933.

### Navy Storm Breaks

With the end of the war, however, the storm broke. Reserve officers and regular Navy officers found strict censorship lifted and began to speak out.

Long before this, however, some of the younger officers on Secretary Forrestal's staff had tipped him off as to what was going on. They told him that the important telegrams were not being shown him. They suggested that he go up to the communications room himself and look them over. Forrestal did, and, from that time on, he has had more to say about running the Navy.

The man who handled promotions, transfers and discharges for King was Admiral Randall Jacobs, chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel or "BUPERS." If you control "BUPERS," you can pretty much dominate the Navy. And between them, King and Jacobs did.

But the end of the war caught both King and Jacobs completely off-guard. They had never expected it so soon.

In fact they were making all preparations for a full-scale invasion of Japan this Fall. Furthermore, King did not want to see the Navy reduced to anywhere near its peacetime size, so was the last man to want to speed naval discharges.

### Forrestal Gets Tough

It was at about this point that Jim Forrestal, for the most part a meek and mild little man, began to get tough. Though he had been wise to King for a long time, he had been handicapped by the fact that King was the special pet of FDR, and the late President considered it his job to run the Navy. Forrestal was almost helpless.

With Truman, however, it was different. Truman not only believes in each Cabinet member being responsible for his own department, but he also knew something about the way Admiral King had ridden roughshod over the civilian Secretaries of the Navy. So the first move made by Secretary Forrestal was to remove Admiral Jacobs, the man with the key to promotions, transfers and discharges. Jacobs never wanted to go. He had a fine house at the Naval Hospital supplied him by the Government, together with a couple of Filipino servants. However he had no choice in the matter.

At first a special job was created for Jacobs. He was to be a full admiral with the magnificent title of "Inspector General of the Pacific."

By this time, however, Forrestal was really feeling his oats. He was determined to run the Navy himself. And public criticism against Jacobs' slow discharge system strengthened Forrestal's hand. He took away the glittering job in the Pacific and reduced Jacobs to the humdrum chore of running the Bremerton Naval Base near Seattle, Wash.

Furthermore, Forrestal brought into the Navy a man who does not play on Admiral King's team, Admiral Lou Denfeld, and made him Chief of Personnel. King kicked like a Missouri mule, but Forrestal overrode him.

### The Navy's Eisenhower

Then, to make matters worse, Forrestal brought in as Denfeld's assistant, Capt. John Gingrich, another man who does not play on King's team.

Gingrich's career, in a way, might be compared to that of General Eisenhower. Like Eisenhower, he is the product of the Kansas prairies. Born in Dodge City, Kan., he graduated from Annapolis and did a great job in the war as commander of the cruiser Pittsburgh. It was Gingrich who largely towed the flaming carrier Franklin out of danger, incidentally covering up some glaring mistakes by other commanders which have never leaked out.

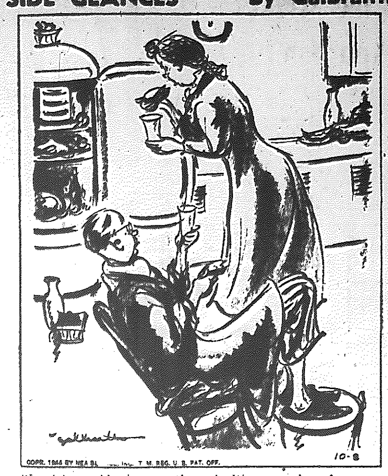
It was Gingrich who nursed the Pittsburgh all the way across the Pacific, when 100 feet of her bow was torn off by a typhoon—once again covering up some faulty construction which the Navy didn't want advertised.

But, somewhat like Eisenhower, who was fired by General MacArthur when they served together in Manila in 1938, Gingrich was "fired" by Admiral King. As a reward for his heroism, he was relegated to the sidelines, removed from command of the Pittsburgh, and given the innocuous job of Chief of Personnel at Miami, Fla. Gingrich had been offered several important jobs by admirals in the Pacific, but King "sent him to Liberia" instead.

At this point, however, Secretary Forrestal stepped in. He ordered young Captain Gingrich back to Washington as Deputy Chief of the powerful Bureau of Personnel.

The mothers, wives and sweethearts of Navy men have a lot to be thankful for as a result of this transfer. Both Denfeld and Gingrich, though Annapolis graduates, believe in recognizing the reserves, believe in speeding discharges, and understand the problems of Navy men. There should be a new hurry-up of Navy discharges as a result.

## SIDE GLANCES — By Galbraith




"I wish you'd give up these bedtime snacks of yours, George—I'm putting on a lot of weight!"

# The Lost Peace

**By Dorothy Thompson**

NEW YORK

WHILE industry after industry is struck in the United States and cries for more rapid demobilization descend upon the peoples' representatives, and the tax structure is overhauled, and America prepares to enter peace as sensationally as she went to war, eyes have been diverted from London, where a first-class tragedy has taken place.

The peace negotiations have broken down. There is no peace. We have been counting our chickens before they were hatched. The eggs that were to produce the great new age of peace are sterile. The situation is just as bad as it can be.

Truth is, it was bad at Casablanca, at Moscow, at Yalta, at San Francisco, and, at Potsdam, it was worst of all. We put the most favorable interpretation on things, we trusted our leaders; we hoped for the best—once our enemies were unconditionally surrendered. But in sober moments, studying the documents that issued from these various meetings we could not hide our doubts and fears.

**BIG OR LITTLE**

What was to be the fate of small nations in the Big Three—or Big Five—world? What was a small nation? France? Was she really one of the "Bigs"—or was her inclusion all hooey? If the small nations disappeared, as power factors, along with Germany and Japan, what would move into the vacuum thus created? The Big Three? And when, in history, had Great Powers restrained themselves, each in the interest of the other?

Where—we asked ourselves—was that ancient figure, her eyes bandaged against prejudice, holding the scales? Where were the People, the "Common Man," whose peace and whose century this, we were told, was to be? The small nations, plus the enemy peoples in Europe alone, composed populations totalling those of the United States and Soviet Union combined! Were all these to be permanently disfranchised? Was not Dumbarton Oaks a fraud from the beginning—from the moment it was accepted that the strong should enjoy privileges denied the weak, and exempted from restrictions that the small countries must assume?

**THE NEW REALISM**

The cry went up: "We must be realistic!"—but no one could define for us this New Realism. It looked to us very much like the Old Nick. And, oh, the fascination exerted by the enemy! How easy, while fighting him, to accept his very principles, or his unprinciple, elevated into a "Waltanschauung" (a political philosophy).

To question, was futile; a selling job was being done. The American State Department sent out its salesmen; Mr. Stettinius, Mr. Pasvolsky, Mr. James Dunn, and lesser lights called a meeting in New York of publishers, editors, editorial writers and radio commentators. They sat in the Waldorf ballroom, and listened for about an hour while the Dumbarton Oaks plan was described — excruciatingly bored, for all of them know the plan by heart. Many had studied and re-studied it, annotated, and commented on it. Finally they were allowed to submit questions, but only in writing. There was no discussion. One journalist—John Davenport—protested, but was quickly suppressed. No one was at all interested in what the audience thought, though in it were men who had spent their lives in a study of world peace.

Afterward the ballyhoo of San Francisco. In Europe, where "the toad beneath the harrow knows exactly where each toothpoint goes," the people called it "San Fiasco." And in London, American journalists have been protesting against the lack of liaison between the American delegates and the American press, who had to get their information of the conference's deadlock largely from non-American sources.

**AND NOW ISOLATION**

No world organization was created at San Francisco. No principles were enunciated at Potsdam. Free elections were promised, but no steps were taken, at any time, to insure the most primitive conditions for popular rule anywhere. So the new world organization has not survived as many months as the wretched League of Nations survived years.

We must start over again—from scratch. The same newspapers which told us of the breakdown in London, announced the War Department's opinion that air war between continents is already possible. But we shall lose that next war, if we are isolated on this island for the kill.

If we are to survive the coming generation, we must really organize internationally, which means under law, applicable to great and small equally, with genuine international instruments internationally controlled for mutual protection and well-being. If all the nations of the earth will join, so much the better. If some will not, then let us make a real international order with those who will.

**WITHOUT RUSSIA**

Specifically, if Russia will not, then we must organize without Russia. Under no circumstances must we direct ourselves against her; the international organization should guarantee even non-members aid against aggression, and leave its ranks open at all times to everyone, including our late enemies.

The issue transcends all other issues, for it is the issue of life or death on this planet. It cannot be settled by collective bargaining among Great Powers over the spoils of war. It can only be settled according to principle.

## Honorable Deflation Now A Fact

# Disorganized Labor Front

**By Marquis Childs**

WASHINGTON

THE view of the strike situation from Washington is one of almost unrelieved gloom. It seems certain to get worse before it gets better.

One of the chief worries here is that so little control and discipline are being exercised by the top leadership of labor. In other words, labor seems to have no general staff, so that warfare on the labor front breaks out sporadically at every point on the compass.

The biggest concern is still the auto industry. Since it is likely to pace the reconversion program, what happens in motors may set the pattern for all of industry.

Locals of the United Auto Workers are out of hand, according to all reports. Top UAW officials have apparently made no progress in settling the Kelsey-Hayes strikes, which was the occasion for the Ford shutdown.

The great, sprawling UAW, with its wartime peak of 1,250,000,000 members, has been torn by strife among the leaders of the union. In their struggle for power, the problem of discipline, almost impossible in itself, has been neglected. There has been little preparation for a long siege.

### Parts Farmed Out

There are some 300,000 constituent parts in the modern automobile, each one essential. The making of many of these parts is farmed out to other firms, such as Kelsey-Hayes. A so-called wildcat strike that stops the manufacture of some essential part can stop most of the industry.

If the motor assembly lines stop, then the demand for steel falls off and the effect is felt on down the line. Our industrial structure is so closely integrated that even a slight push causes a vibration from end to end.

Some unions, such as the United Steel Workers, have done a much more thorough job during the war. Their organization is said to be tightly knit, ready for whatever may happen.

But when it comes to bringing labor's full force to bear, both politically and economically, the flaw lies in the division between AF of L and CIO. That division is, today, deeper than ever, and it is being actively exploited by the AF of L.

### Union vs. Union

It cuts so many different ways. When the President appointed Raymond McKeough to be a member of the Maritime Commission, AF of L opposition was almost automatic, since McKeough has been working for the Political Action Committee in Chicago.

This split at the top enormously complicates any effort to bring order in the labor field. It makes it, in fact, almost impossible.

One of the major obstacles in setting up the forthcoming labor-management conference has been jealous rivalry between the two groups—three groups, actually, taking the great John L. Lewis into consideration. This may have been one reason for setting the conference so far in the future. To balance off these powers takes even more tact and protocol than is required to bring the foreign ministers of the world together.

Many people on both sides of the management-labor line are asking why the conference was not called earlier, when it might have helped to solve some of the troubles reflected in current headlines. Besides the problem of bringing the three hostile branches of labor together, there have been other difficulties.

### Impartial Chairman

One is to find an impartial chairman. That is a little like looking for the perfect man, the White Knight above fear and favor.

Samuel Seabury, who had so much to do with cleaning up New York and ousting Tammany, was at first considered. But because he has had a part in New York's current mayoralty campaign, he was considered too political.

Next, Henry L. Stimson was approached as a rare citizen who does his duty as a patriot rather than a partisan. But Stimson, at 78, after five years in the War Department, begged off. He deserves a rest.

It is a job for someone who can keep a level head in the midst of what threatens to be a national cyclone.

# Statesmen At Work

*(Serious, facetious and comic excerpts from the Congressional Record)*

IT hadn't yet developed into a filibuster, but Senator Bilbo of Mississippi was holding the floor against all comers as he spoke against Senator Wheeler's bill to remove Government rate priorities on land-grant railroad traffic:

Mr. WHEELER. Mr. President will the Senator yield?

Mr. BILBO. I yield.

Mr. WHEELER. The Senator knows perfectely well that the share which any State gets from the sale of a little land by the Government from a forest reserve is a comparatively small amount, whereas at the present time all that land is taxed, and the county and the schools obtain a direct tax from the owners of the land. The Senator knows that. I appreciate the fact that he is making these speeches for home consumption, and I am glad if he thinks they will help him at home.

Mr. BILBO. The Senator is correct when he says that I am making them for home consumption, because my people vote.

Mr. WHEELER. What percentage of the Senator's people vote?

Mr. BILBO. All those who are qualified.

Mr. WHEELER. What percentage of the Senator's people vote?

Mr. BILBO. One hundred per cent of those who are qualified.

Mr. WHEELER. What does the Senator mean by "qualified"?

Mr. BILBO. All those who meet the educational qualifications.

Mr. WHEELER. What percentage of the people of the Senator's State voted in the last election?

Mr. BILBO. All those who were qualified under our constitution; all those who met the educational qualifications.

Mr. WHEELER. What percentage of the Senator people voted?

Mr. BILBO. I am telling the Senator.

Mr. WHEELER. No; the Senator is not.

Mr. BILBO. The Senator does not understand English.

Mr. WHEELER. The Senator is dodging the question, because of the fact that he does not wish to tell the percentage of the people who vote in his State.

Mr. BILBO. I am telling the Senator that all those who are qualified under the educational qualifications as set up by our constitution, approved by the Supreme Court of the United States, vote in my State. That is as much as the Senator can say about his State.

Mr. Wheeler. Oh, no. Everyone in my State above the age of 21 years may vote, regardless of his race, color, or anything else. That is far more than the Senator from Mississippi can say with reference to his State.

Mr. BILBO. Anyone can vote in Montana—is that it?

Mr. WHEELER. Anyone who is 21 years of age can vote in my State, whether it be a woman, a man, or a colored person, regardless of race or religion. I am very proud of the fact that there is no religious or racial intolerance among the people of my State.

Mr. BILBO. Voters are not qualified in the Senator's State—is that true?

Mr. WHEELER. We qualify them by age.

Mr. BILBO. They are not qualified mentally or by education. That accounts for a great deal. In my State we qualify the voters.

Mr. WHEELER. That is why the State of Mississippi has such able representatives.

Mr. BILBO. We get the cream of the crop in the Congress.

Mr. WHEELER. That is the reason why the Senator was elected.

Mr. BILBO. Certainly. The Senator has given me the reason why Montana has such a Senator.

## People's Platform

# He Voted For FDR

**By CPL. P. M. SEDLAK**

Fort Bragg

I would like to use your paper to put Mrs. Charlie M'Gaha straight on something of which she has been ignorant for several years. Hundreds and thousands of other Americans undoubtedly think the same as she, because she has been misinformed by propaganda.

She states that Mr. Roosevelt made wild promises to get elected and Tom Dewey did not. Yet, she makes a mention of only one, which was NOT a wild promise and was not used in the campaign of 1944. If you ask me, Mrs. M'Gaha doesn't know what to tell she's writing about.

My aim is, right here and now to make this clean and clear for especially this one lady and the thousands of others who read your paper. Franklin Delano Roosevelt never in all the speeches I have ever listened to, ever, made a statement similar to what this Mrs. M'Gaha tries to fake about. So my dear Mrs. M'Gaha, here is what Mr. Roosevelt once said regarding American soldiers fighting abroad: QUOTE: "No American soldier boy will be sent to die in foreign wars." Now, Mrs. M'Gaha, that is as clear as can possibly be, so I hope you see it, and read it over and over and over. The word soil is not used. Furthermore, Mrs. M'Gaha, no American soldier boy EVER WAS sent to die in a foreign war under President Roosevelt's administration. And in case you are too narrow-minded to know—let me explain. A foreign war is one fought in other countries BY other countries. BUT when we were attacked—THAT is when the war was no longer FOREIGN, and then what Mr. Roosevelt said did not hold true, because like I have said, the war was here too. Incidentally, Mrs. M'Gaha, when we were at war, was it not nicer for you and millions of other Americans to have our GI's fight on foreign soil—thousands of miles away from our shores to protect YOU and others. Wasn't it Mrs. M'Gaha?

I note you say something about Browder and Hillman and "those Communists" electing FDR? Well, you mean to contend that we have ONLY Communists in the USA and they were the ONLY ones that voted!!!! NUTS. What about the Murphys', Olsons', Schloskys', Strinceviches', Dankos', and Greens' and the other persons who voted. Were their votes thrown out? Even if the Communists did elect him, although I know darn well they didn't, by no means were they running the country. Not by a long shot, Mrs. M'Gaha.

I better get after my army work now.